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Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 119

As a former motor vehicle technician, accounting technician, newly elected county treasurer, I have witnessed first-hand the declining level of service our counties Motor Vehicle Offices.

In recent years, counties have been tasked with a growing workload, increasing the amount of staff needed to operate efficiently.

In 2012 the task of title approving have shifted from KDOR in to the counties. Our office for example has a full-time equivalent person to complete this task.

In 2016, KDOR discontinued funding to the counties for motor vehicle technology. Items such as computers, scanners, and printers became the counties financial responsibility.

Both work load, as well as inflationary pressures have drastically impacted the amount of funding needed to operate our tag office.

KDOR has acknowledged this growing gap in testimony in 2023 legislative session on HB 2148, and has supported legislation that allows counties to fund their operations.

This past year, our team was faced with the difficult decision of closing our satellite office and reducing our overall head count by 2 full time equivalent employees.

The cost of registering a motor vehicle has continued to grow, while the service level our customers receive continues to decline. Saline County projects a loss in the motor vehicle office of \$70,237 through 2029. The current fee structure is not sustainable.

Current registration fees have been the same for at least 50 years. The \$2 title fee has not changed since 1982. The proposed fee change would re-allocate existing for an additional

\$5 for each registration, and \$1.50 for each title - for a total of \$5.75 per registration and \$3.50 per title.

Senate Bill 119 will help my county ensure we have the staff and resources to provide the service level our customers expect, without increasing the cost to the customer. As a motor vehicle technician, I have had a front row seat to the customers frustration. This frustration will continue to grow and service levels will continue to degrade without your support.

Our customers deserve a properly funded tag office.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 119. Our tag offices deserve proper funding to do the work as agents of the state, and our customers deserve an efficient experience in our offices.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'AN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Newell
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